Claims

1. An automated multi-function terminal for use in a post office, comprising a processor electrically coupled to each of: an input device operable by a user, a device for weighing items of postage, a device for capturing image, a visual display; the processor being configured to: (a) receive input from weighing device specifying the weighing of an object placed thereon;(b) receive input from image capturing device of an object placed thereon; (c) receive input from the input device specifying other necessary characteristic of the delivery; (d) process the image information in order to recognize dimensions, writing characters and/or symbols from the electronic image captured previously;(e) provide output to the visual display to show image, dimensions, writings and all recognized characteristic from the object placed thereon; and (f) operate the output device to supply storage of retrieved information for further operations.

2. An automated point-of-sale terminal as claimed in Claim 1, including a light manipulation device such as a mirror or a lens in order to reduce multi-function terminal dimensions.

3. An automated multi-function terminal as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the said light manipulation device is a special set of lenses.

4. An automated multi-function desk as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising an output device adapted to print and dispense a payment receipt.

5. An automated multi-function desk as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the image is transferred via mirror or lenses to a image capturing device.

6. An automated multi-function desk as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the processor, the input device, the weighing unit, the image capturing, the payment acceptance device, and the output device are integral in a single unit.

7. An automated multi-function desk as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the integral unit is movable and independent from the desk.

8. A method of facilitate postal services in a post office reducing the intervention of the employee, comprising providing an automated multi-function desk device operable by a worker to: (a) specify the characteristics of a postal delivery; (b) weight an item of postage; (c) capture an image of postage; (d) process the image and extract information; (e) perform calculation and point out errors; (f) accept payment of a postal charge in respect of the postal delivery; and (g) dispense a printed indication that the posta charge has been paid.